



Mayor Mark Mallory

City of Cincinnati

801 Plum Street, Room 150, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Date: July 20, 2006

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Mallory Kicks-Off “Out to Lunch” Program Program aims to fill gaps in Summer Free Lunch coverage

Cincinnati – Mayor Mark Mallory announced the kick-off of a new program to fill the gaps in the coverage of the Summer Food Program. The “Out to Lunch” Program will hold special events for young people in communities that do not currently have a Summer Food Service site. The kick-off was held at the Mt. Auburn Community Center.

Every week, Out to Lunch will visit a different community at lunchtime to show the importance of the Summer Food Program. Every young person who attends will receive a free nutritionally balanced lunch and have the opportunity to participate in activities and games planned by the Cincinnati Recreation Commission. Local community organizations are invited to come to learn about how they can become a Summer Food Service site.

“We have made some amazing strides in increasing the number of young people accessing these free lunches in the summer,” Mayor Mallory said. “But, there are still communities where the youth do not even have access to the program. We must fill these gaps so that more children have access to quality summer meals.”

At the morning event, Mayor Mallory announced that the program had already shown its first result. The Mt. Auburn Community Center signed on to be a full time Summer Food Program site next year.

“You can see the power of the Out to Lunch Program to change a community. Next summer, the young people in Mt. Auburn will be able to come here every day of the week and get a good meal and have fun in the process,” Mayor Mallory said. “We must recognize the connection between feeding kids and keeping them healthy and keeping them out of trouble.”

At the news conference, Mayor Mallory and Rita Knueven from Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) announced the successes illustrated by the preliminary numbers for lunches served this summer. Last year, CPS served 99,000 lunches through the Summer Food Program. This year, from June 12 through July 17, CPS has already served 108,000 lunches. CPS has already exceeded last year’s totals, and there is still month to go in the program. In 2006, CPS expanded the Summer Food Program by two weeks.

In addition, there has been success in opening new sites this year, including five new Cincinnati Recreation Commission sites, two new Salvation Army sites, two new sites at Victory Neighborhood Services, and three new sites at public libraries.

"Children are often most at risk of hunger during the summer months," says Charlie Kozlesky, Senior Vice President of School and Summer Nutrition. "That's because many children rely on free or reduced-price lunches they receive at school. During the summer break, many kids lose that safety-net they depend on. That's why we need to not only raise awareness about the existing summer meal sites."

According to Cincinnati Public Schools, over 66% of Cincinnati youth qualify for the Federal School Lunch and Breakfast Program. However, statewide, 92% of these students do not participate in the Summer Food Service Program. Community organizations interested in getting involved in the Summer Food Service Program should contact the Children's Hunger Alliance at 614-341-7701 to get more details.

The lunches for Out to Lunch have been donated by Samurai Sam's and the milk was donated by the American Dairy Association.

Out to Lunch Program Schedule

July 20, 2006, 11a.m. - 1p.m.

Mt. Auburn Community Center
270 Southern Avenue
381-1760 - Ruby Norman, contact person

July 20, 2006, 11a.m. - 1p.m.

Olden Tot Lot
3436 Warsaw Avenue
Mobile Playground
352-4026 - Steve LeConey, contact person

July 24, 2006, 11a.m. - 1p.m.

Boldface Park
3070 River Road
Mobile Playground
352-4026 - Steve LeConey, contact person

August 2, 2006, 11a.m. - 1p.m.

Laurel Park
503 West Liberty
Mobile Playground
352-4026 - Steve LeConey, contact person

August 9, 2006, 11a.m. - 1p.m.

Pendleton Heritage Center
2760 Eastern Avenue
321-4928 - Karen Fuell, contact person

August 15, 2006, 11a.m. - 1p.m.

Riverside Park area
471-7695 - Jill Shoemaker, contact person

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